

06-12-00

Jc836 U.S. PTO

09/591158

06/09/00

## UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL

Address to:

**Box PATENT APPLICATION**  
**Commissioner for Patents**  
**United States Patent & Trademark Office**  
**Washington, DC 20231**

Attorney Docket No.

MEDO 5029 PUS

Inventor(s) or Application Identifier:

Monica A. Marics, J. Clarke Stevens,  
 Patricia Somers, Anne P. McClard

1. This application entitled System and Method for Providing Internet  
Addresses Corresponding to an Electronic Signal to a User is:

- a. ☒ A new application under 37 C.F.R. §1.53(b).
- b. ☐ A ☐ continuation ☐ divisional or ☐ continuation-in-part  
 application under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b) of prior application Serial  
 No.       /        filed on       ,  
 entitled       .

Application elements and other attached papers:

2. ☒ Specification (incl. Claims and Abstract) [Total Pages 17]
3. ☒ Drawings (☐ informal ☒ formal) [Total Sheets 2]
4. ☒ Oath or Declaration
- a. ☒ Newly-executed
- b. ☐ Copy from a prior application (37 C.F.R. § 1.63(d))
5. ☐ Incorporation By Reference: The entire disclosure of the prior  
 application, from which a copy of the oath or declaration is supplied  
 under Item 4b, is considered as being part of the disclosure of the  
 accompanying application and is hereby incorporated by reference  
 therein.
6. ☐ This application is filed by fewer than all the inventors named in  
 the prior application, 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(d)(4).
- a. ☐ **DELETE** the following inventor(s) named in the prior  
 nonprovisional application:
- b. ☐ The inventor(s) to be deleted are set forth on a separate sheet  
 attached hereto.

## CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.10

I hereby certify that this UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL and the  
 documents referred to as attached therein are being deposited on the below date  
 with the United States Postal Service in an envelope as "Express Mail Post  
 Office to Addressee" addressed to: Box Patent Application, Commissioner for  
 Patents, United States Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Express

Mail Label No. EL 481 736 275 USAngelika Phillips

(Type or print name of person mailing paper)

Date of Deposit: June 9, 2000Angelika Phillips

(Signature of person mailing paper)

## 7. Preliminary Amendment:

- a. ☐ A Preliminary Amendment is attached.
- b. ☐ Cancel in this application original claims \_\_\_\_\_ of the prior application before calculating the filing fee.
- c. ☐ Please amend the specification by inserting before the first line the sentence:
- "This is a  
☐ continuation  
☐ divisional  
of copending application(s)  
☐ Serial number \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ filed on \_\_\_\_\_."
- d. ☐ A Petition to Suspend Prosecution For The Time Necessary to File An Amendment (New Application Filed Concurrently) is attached.

## 8. Small entity status:

- a. ☐ A small entity statement is attached.
- b. ☐ A small entity statement was filed in the prior nonprovisional application and such status is still proper and desired.
- c. ☐ Is no longer desired.

## 9. Fee Calculation:

FOR	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE	CALCULATIONS
TOTAL CLAIMS (37 C.F.R. § 1.16(c))	35 -20 =	15	X 18.00	270.00
INDEPENDENT CLAIMS (37 C.F.R. § 1.16(b))	2 -3 =	--	X 78.00	--
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIMS (if applicable) (37 C.F.R. §1.16(d))			260.00	--
			BASIC FEE (37 C.F.R. § 1.16(a))	690.00
Total of above Calculations =				960.00
Reduction by 50% for filing by small entity (Note 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.9, 1.27, 1.28)				--
Assignment Recordal Fee			40.00	40.00
TOTAL =				1,000.00

10. ☒ A check in the amount of \$ 1,000.00 is enclosed.
11. ☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to credit overpayments or charge the following fees (or any deficiency therein) to Deposit Account No. 02-3978:
- a. ☒ Fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16.
- b. ☒ Fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

12. Maintenance of Copendency of Prior Application

☐ A request for extension of time and the appropriate fee have been filed in the pending **prior** application (or are being filed in the prior application concurrently herewith) to extend the period for response until \_\_\_\_\_.

13. ☒ An Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) is attached, along with the following indicated attachments thereto:

a. ☒ Form PTO/SB/08A (1 sheet(s))

b. ☒ Copies of references cited

14. ☐ Certified copy of priority document(s)

15. ☒ Return Receipt Postcard

16. ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

17. ☒ An Assignment of the invention to MediaOne Group, Inc.

a. ☒ is attached.

b. ☐ was recorded on \_\_\_\_\_ at Reel \_\_\_\_\_, Frame \_\_\_\_\_.

18. The power of attorney in the prior application is to:

Name of Attorney of Record	Reg. No.
----------------------------	----------

☐ The power appears in the original papers in the prior application.

☐ The power does not appear in the original papers, but was filed on \_\_\_\_\_.

☐ A new power has been executed and is attached.

19. Correspondence Address: Please address all future communications to:

Stephanie M. Mansfield,  
 Brooks & Kushman P.C.,  
 1000 Town Center, 22nd Fl.  
 Southfield, MI 48075-1351  
 Telephone: 248-358-4400; Fax: 248-358-3351

Respectfully submitted,

Date June 9, 2000

Stephanie M. Mansfield  
 Name: Stephanie M. Mansfield  
 Registration No.: 43,773

☒ Attorney or agent of record  
☐ Filed under Rule 34(a)

## SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PROVIDING INTERNET ADDRESSES CORRESPONDING TO AN ELECTRONIC SIGNAL TO A USER

### TECHNICAL FIELD

5 This invention relates to a system and method for providing Internet addresses corresponding to an electronic signal, such as a video or audio program, to a user.

### BACKGROUND ART

10 Increasingly, people “surf” the Internet and watch television at the same time. Since the Internet contains a vast amount of information on virtually any subject, viewers may wish to search for information related to the topic of the particular programming they are watching. Unfortunately, the Internet is not always well organized, and the search for additional information may be quite time consuming.

15 In some instances, video programming references a related web site through a text display or voice-over. However, viewers may not remember the Internet address correctly, and fail to ever reach the referenced web site. In addition, there may be a number of sites from which the viewer could obtain additional information related to the subject matter of the video program. Since television programs and commercials are limited in duration, they cannot contain all the related  
20 information that a viewer may wish to receive.

Currently, it is known that uniform resource locators (URLs), which designate particular Internet addresses, can be embedded in an electronic signal, such as a video or audio program. A URL decoder is then used to extract the URL from the video signal and determine the associated Internet address. In this way, Internet  
25 addresses related to the programming can be inserted by the program creator, thereby narrowing the search for Internet information.

As one example of integration of television and the Internet, U.S. Patent No. 6,018,768 issued to Ullman et al. discloses synchronizing the broadcast of a video program with the presentation of web pages related to the program. More particularly, URLs embedded in the video program signal are extracted and  
5 interpreted, and the associated web pages are retrieved and automatically streamed to the user. In this system, therefore, the user receives all of the web pages prescribed by the broadcaster, in the order prescribed by the broadcaster. However, the user may not wish to view each and every web page designated by the video program, and furthermore may wish to view the web pages at a time and in an order  
10 of their choosing.

Therefore, a need exists for an integration of video and/or audio programming and the Internet, wherein the retrieval of web sites related to the programming is selectable by the user.

### DISCLOSURE OF INVENTION

15 It is an object of the present invention to provide a system and method for providing Internet addresses corresponding to an electronic signal to a user wherein the user controls whether or not the associated web pages are displayed.

It is a further object of the present invention to provide a system and method for providing Internet addresses corresponding to an electronic signal to a  
20 user wherein the user controls the order in which the associated web pages are displayed.

It is another object of the present invention to provide a system and method for providing Internet addresses corresponding to an electronic signal to a user wherein the user can view a historical list of Internet addresses extracted from  
25 the electronic signal.

It is a further object of the present invention to provide a system and method for providing Internet addresses corresponding to an electronic signal to a

user wherein the historical list of Internet addresses can include addresses from more than one video or audio program.

5 It is a still further object of the present invention to provide a system and method for providing Internet addresses corresponding to an electronic signal to a user wherein the Internet addresses include information indicating the program source.

10 Accordingly, a system is provided for providing Internet addresses corresponding to an electronic signal, such as a video or audio program, to a user. The system includes a receiver for receiving at least one electronic signal, where the electronic signal includes one or more Internet addresses embedded therein that correspond to the electronic signal. A decoder in communication with the receiver is operable to extract the one or more Internet addresses from the electronic signal. The system further includes a processor in communication with the decoder. The processor compiles a historical list of the one or more Internet addresses extracted from the electronic signal, and includes memory for storing the historical list. A web browser connected to the processor is operable to present the historical list of Internet addresses to the user.

20 Correspondingly, a method is provided for providing Internet addresses corresponding to an electronic signal to a user. The method includes receiving at least one electronic signal, where the electronic signal includes one or more Internet addresses embedded therein that correspond to the electronic signal. The method further includes extracting the one or more Internet addresses from the electronic signal. Still further, the method includes compiling and storing a historical list of the Internet addresses extracted from the electronic signal, and presenting the historical list of the Internet addresses to the user.

25 Preferably, the processor is further operable to receive a signal from the user indicating a selected Internet address from the historical list and provide a connection to a web page associated with the selected Internet address. In this way, the user does not have to view each and every web page associated with Internet

addresses extracted from the electronic signal, and furthermore can view the web pages at a time and in an order of their choosing.

Preferably, the electronic signal can include a video signal, an audio signal, or a combined video and audio signal, such as a television program. The Internet addresses preferably include uniform resource locators (URLs), and the Internet addresses are preferably embedded in a vertical blanking interval of the electronic signal.

In further accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention, the receiver can include a set-top box or home gateway, and the processor can include a personal computer or web tablet. In addition, a first display is preferably provided in communication with the processor. In one embodiment, the processor can be provided in communication with the receiver, such that the electronic signal can also be displayed on the first display. In another embodiment, a second display, such as a television set, is provided in communication with the receiver for displaying the electronic signal to the user.

Still further, the at least one electronic signal can include a plurality of electronic signals. In this case, a tuner is provided in communication with the receiver for tuning to a selected one of the plurality of electronic signals. Advantageously, the historical list can include Internet addresses extracted from the plurality of electronic signals, such that Internet addresses from different programs are presented to the user in a seamless manner.

In a preferred embodiment, the historical list is configurable by the user. For example, the historical list can preferably include Internet addresses extracted over an amount of time selectable by the user, Internet addresses of a number selectable by the user, as well as program source information associated with each Internet address.

The above objects and other objects, features, and advantages of the present invention are more readily understood from a review of the attached drawings and the accompanying specification and claims.

### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

5                   FIGURE 1 is a flow diagram of a method in accordance with the present invention of providing Internet addresses corresponding to an electronic signal to a user;

FIGURE 2 is a block diagram of a system constructed in accordance with the present invention;

10                   FIGURE 3 is a block diagram of an alternative embodiment of the system of the present invention; and

FIGURE 4 is a schematic illustration of a screen display including the historical list of Internet addresses corresponding to the electronic signal.

### BEST MODE FOR CARRYING OUT THE INVENTION

15                   The system and method of the present invention integrate video and/or audio programming with the Internet. Specific Internet addresses are embedded in the program signal, such that users are able to receive content-related information in a more efficient manner than if programming or the Internet were used alone. Advantageously, the system and method of the present invention allow the retrieval  
20 of web sites related to the programming to be selectable by the user in the manner described below.

Referring first to the flow diagram of FIG. 1, the method of the present invention is outlined. First, as shown at block 10, the method includes receiving at least one electronic signal, where the electronic signal includes one or  
25 more Internet addresses embedded therein. The method further includes extracting



the one or more Internet addresses from the at least one electronic signal, as shown at block 12, and compiling and storing a historical list of the one or more Internet addresses extracted from the at least one electronic signal, as shown at block 14. Lastly, as shown at block 16, the method includes presenting the historical list of Internet addresses to the user.

Turning now to FIG. 2, a system 20 is depicted for carrying out the method of the present invention. System 20 includes a receiver 22, preferably a set-top box or home gateway, that is constructed to receive at least one electronic signal from a signal source 24, such as a video server. Receiver 22 is connected to signal source 24 via a public or private network 26 which includes a telephone line, coaxial cable, fiber optic link, wireless, RF, satellite link, or the like. The electronic signal received from signal source 24 can represent a video signal, an audio signal, or a combined video/audio signal. For exemplary purposes, the electronic signal will be described herein as being a combined video/audio signal such as a television program. However, it is understood that any video and/or audio signal can be utilized in accordance with the system and method of the present invention. The electronic signal can be transmitted from signal source 24 to receiver 22 in analog, digital, or digitally compressed formats via such methods as a television broadcast, analog and digital cable, satellite, Internet, or analog and digital radio.

In an alternative embodiment of the present invention, the electronic signal can be provided to receiver 22 from a prerecorded storage medium such as an analog videotape, digital videodisc (DVD), personal video recorder disk, or digital music player. In this case, receiver 22 would be provided in communication with a VCR, DVD player, or other appropriate device (not shown).

In accordance with the system and method of the present invention, receiver 22 receives at least one television program signal having Internet addresses embedded therein by the broadcaster or content owner that correspond to the television program. As is known in the art, a plurality of program signals are typically received by receiver 22, and a user can select a specific program by utilizing a tuner (not shown) provided in communication with receiver 22. The

Internet addresses embedded in the program signal are typically in the form of uniform resource locators (URLs), which are associated with particular web sites on the Internet as is also known in the art. The Internet addresses are preferably embedded in the vertical blanking interval (VBI) of the video signal by a URL encoder (not shown). Alternatively, the Internet addresses can be carried in the horizontal portion of the video signal, the close captioning of the video signal, an audio channel, a digital data field, or in any other part of the electronic signal in such a manner as not to interfere with the displayed video and/or audio.

Referring again to FIG. 2, receiver 22 is provided with a decoder 28 which is operable to extract the one or more Internet addresses which have been embedded in the television program signal selected by the user. Should a user decide to change the program, decoder 28 will continue extracting addresses from the new television program signal. Decoder 28 may be either a stand-alone unit, integrated within a set-top box, or implemented as a card provided in a personal computer or home gateway. The details of the construction of such a decoder are well known in the art and need not be described in further specificity herein.

System 20 further includes a processor 30 in communication with receiver 22 as shown in FIG. 2. Communication between receiver 22 and processor 30 is preferably accomplished via a home network 32, wherein the home network can include any of several signaling techniques such as radio frequency, power line, phone line, or coaxial cable. Processor 30 can be embodied in any device capable of establishing an Internet connection, including a personal computer, web tablet, Internet appliance, palm pilot, or cellular telephone. Processor 30 is operable to compile a historical list of the one or more Internet addresses extracted from the electronic signal. Advantageously, processor 30 utilizes Internet addresses extracted from each program selected by the user to compile the historical list. Processor 30 includes memory 34 for electronically storing the historical list, and platform independent software which is operable to present the historical list to the user. The software allows processor 30 to retrieve the web pages associated with the extracted Internet addresses at the selection of the user. In a preferred embodiment, a JAVA-enabled web browser 36 is utilized due to its platform independence. Processor 30

is operable to establish a connection to the Internet 38, typically via a modem (not shown) and home network 32. This connection can be initiated by the user or can be maintained continuously by processor 30, termed an "always on" Internet connection.

5 Still referring to FIG. 2, receiver 22 is in communication with at least one display such that a user can view the television program as well as the extracted Internet addresses. In a preferred embodiment, receiver 22 comprises a set-top box which is connected to a television set 40 and is also in communication with a display 42, such as a web tablet screen or computer monitor, via processor 30. In this  
10 embodiment, the set-top box is operable to receive a television program signal from signal source 24 and broadcast a display signal representing the television program to television set 40. Simultaneously, decoder 28 provided in communication with the set-top box extracts the Internet addresses embedded in the television program signal and provides the Internet addresses to processor 30 for display as a historical list via  
15 display 42.

Alternatively, as depicted in FIG. 3, processor 30 can function as the receiver 22 provided that processor 30 is equipped with a television card (not shown). In this alternative embodiment, processor 30 includes the decoder 28 for extracting the one or more Internet addresses embedded in the television program  
20 signal. The television program is then displayed on a video window shown on display 42. On the same display screen, the extracted Internet addresses are displayed for the user.

In another alternative embodiment, the set-top box could be constructed to receive a digital television program signal. In this case, the Internet  
25 addresses are embedded into the digital program using MPEG or any other compression video scheme. The digital set-top box would again include a decoder 28 to extract the Internet addresses from the digital program. In accordance with still another alternative embodiment of the present invention, a digital television could function as the receiver 22, wherein the digital television would be operable to  
30 perform the functions of processor 30 and the digital set-top box.

Referring now to FIG. 4, a display screen 44 of web browser 36 is illustrated which depicts the presentation of the extracted Internet addresses 46 to the user in the form of a historical list 48. According to the system and method of the present invention, upon extraction the Internet addresses 46 are immediately  
5 displayed to the user via historical list 48 for easy viewing and selection. Therefore, the user does not have to remember the Internet addresses 46 from a text display or voice-over during the television program, or do any typing or text entry of the Internet address 46 in order to retrieve the associated web sites. Furthermore, historical list 48 can be maintained in memory 34 of processor 30 so that the user can  
10 access historical list 48 at a later time. In addition, historical list 48 can be printed by the user for continued reference. Users can then, at their leisure, direct web browser 36 to retrieve any of the associated web pages from the Internet 38. Advantageously, historical list 48 of the present invention gives users the capability to retrieve only the web pages of their choosing, regardless of when and in what  
15 order the pages were initially extracted and displayed.

In accordance with the present invention, web browser 36 is configured to have an Address List button 50 which a user can select to display historical list 48 and an Options button 52 which a user can select for displaying a configurations options window 54. For example, the user can select the duration that  
20 the Internet addresses 46 are displayed via historical list 48 in units of seconds, minutes, hours, or days. If a user has visited a web site associated with an Internet address 46, that Internet address 46 can be displayed with different visual characteristics, such as a change in text color or font. The user can also determine the length of historical list 48 by selecting a maximum number of Internet addresses  
25 46 to be displayed therein. A scroll bar 56 is preferably provided to allow a user to scroll through historical list 48 and access those Internet addresses 46 which may not be shown on display screen 44. In addition, the user can have repeated Internet addresses 46 removed from historical list 48 if desired. As still an additional feature, historical list 48 can indicate the program name, channel, and/or time when a  
30 particular Internet address 46 was extracted so that users can put the Internet addresses 46 in context with the television program when going back to view the associated web sites at a later time. This feature is especially beneficial if the user

was not present to view the total duration of the video/audio programming. Lastly, the user can selectively delete Internet addresses 46 in which he/she is not interested, and can move Internet addresses 46 of particular interest into a bookmark file on web browser 36.

5                   Historical list 48 is updated to add an Internet address 46 each time a new Internet address 46 is received by processor 30. Advantageously, in accordance with the system and method of the present invention, decoder 28 will continue to extract Internet addresses 46 from the television program signal and communicate the Internet addresses 46 to processor 30 for display to the user  
10 regardless of whether or not the user chooses to access the associated web pages. The associated web pages are not immediately accessed by the system, so that the user maintains control of if, when, and in what order the web pages are retrieved for viewing. Therefore, the user does not have to view the web pages in any order or according to any time schedule, and does not have to make a decision to view or  
15 bypass one web page before moving on to a subsequent web page. In this way, the user does not have to view each and every web page designated by the video program, and furthermore can view the web pages at a time and in an order of their choosing.

Consequently, upon direction and command of the user, web browser  
20 36 retrieves selected web pages from associated web sites identified by the Internet addresses 46 of historical list 48. The user may request access to the web site through a command to processor 30, such as through a keystroke, mouse, touch screen, or other input. Upon receiving such command, processor 30 establishes a communication link with the web site through transmission of a signal containing the  
25 selected Internet address 46. As described previously, the connection of processor 30 to the Internet 38 can be initiated by the user or can be maintained continuously by processor 30.

An example of the operation of system 20 is described below, again with reference to FIG. 4. Initially, suppose a user tunes receiver 22 to channel 4  
30 which is broadcasting a baseball game between the Colorado Rockies and the San

Diego Padres. Embedded in the television program signal are the Internet addresses for the Colorado Rockies, San Diego Padres, and Major League Baseball. Therefore, processor 30 begins a historical list 48 displaying these Internet addresses 46. At a break in the baseball game, commercials are shown for Budweiser, Ford Trucks, eBay, MediaOne, and a cooperative advertisement for Weber grills and TrueValue hardware. Accordingly, Internet addresses 46 extracted during these commercials are also displayed on historical list 48 in the order in which the Internet addresses 46 were received. As the programming returns to the baseball game the Internet addresses 46 for the Colorado Rockies, San Diego Padres, and Major League Baseball are typically presented again to processor 30. In the example depicted in FIG. 4, the user has configured historical list 48 such that repeated Internet addresses 46 are not displayed.

As described above, historical list 48 can be compiled from video/audio programs shown on different broadcast channels, thereby capturing the user's television experience. For example, at the end of the baseball game, suppose the user tunes to ESPN which is broadcasting a hockey game between the Colorado Avalanche and the Detroit Red Wings. Accordingly, the Internet addresses for ESPN, the Colorado Avalanche, and the Detroit Red Wings are added to the same historical list 48 in a seamless manner. Over time, content-related Internet addresses 46 extracted from the television program signal will continue to be added to historical list 48. As described above, historical list 48 can be configured by the user to indicate program source information for the Internet addresses 46, and can also be limited by time and/or length.

While embodiments of the invention have been illustrated and described, it is not intended that these embodiments illustrate and describe all possible forms of the invention. Rather, the words used are words of description rather than limitation, and it is understood that various changes may be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention.

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

- 1                   1. A system for providing Internet addresses corresponding to an  
2 electronic signal to a user, the system comprising:  
3                   a receiver for receiving at least one electronic signal, the at least one  
4 electronic signal including one or more Internet addresses embedded therein;  
5                   a decoder in communication with the receiver, the decoder for  
6 extracting the one or more Internet addresses from the at least one electronic signal;  
7                   a processor in communication with the decoder, the processor for  
8 compiling a historical list of the one or more Internet addresses extracted from the  
9 at least one electronic signal, wherein the processor includes memory for storing the  
10 historical list; and  
11                  a web browser connected to the processor, the web browser for  
12 presenting the historical list of the one or more Internet addresses to the user.
  
- 1                   2. The system of claim 1, wherein the processor is further operable  
2 to receive a signal from the user indicating a selected Internet address from the  
3 historical list and provide a connection to a web page associated with the selected  
4 Internet address.
  
- 1                   3. The system of claim 1, wherein the receiver includes a set-top box.
  
- 1                   4. The system of claim 1, wherein the receiver includes a home  
2 gateway.
  
- 1                   5. The system of claim 1, wherein the processor includes a personal  
2 computer.
  
- 1                   6. The system of claim 1, wherein the processor includes a web  
2 tablet.

1                   7. The system of claim 1, further comprising a first display in  
2 communication with the processor.

1                   8. The system of claim 7, wherein the processor is in communication  
2 with the receiver, and the at least one electronic signal is displayed on the first  
3 display.

1                   9. The system of claim 1, further comprising a second display in  
2 communication with the receiver for displaying the at least one electronic signal to  
3 the user.

1                   10. The system of claim 9, wherein the second display includes a  
2 television set.

1                   11. The system of claim 1, wherein the at least one electronic signal  
2 includes a plurality of electronic signals.

1                   12. The system of claim 11, further comprising a tuner in  
2 communication with the receiver for tuning to a selected one of the plurality of  
3 electronic signals.

1                   13. The system of claim 11, wherein the historical list includes  
2 Internet addresses extracted from the plurality of electronic signals.

1                   14. The system of claim 1, wherein the historical list includes Internet  
2 addresses extracted over an amount of time selectable by the user.

1                   15. The system of claim 1, wherein the historical list includes Internet  
2 addresses of a number selectable by the user.

1                   16. The system of claim 1, wherein the historical list includes  
2 program source information associated with each Internet address.



1 17. The system of claim 1, wherein the at least one electronic signal  
2 includes a video signal.

1 18. The system of claim 1, wherein the at least one electronic signal  
2 includes an audio signal.

1 19. The system of claim 1, wherein the at least one electronic signal  
2 includes a combined video and audio signal.

1 20. The system of claim 1, wherein the Internet addresses include  
2 uniform resource locators (URLs).

1 21. The system of claim 1, wherein the Internet addresses are  
2 embedded in a vertical blanking interval of the at least one electronic signal.

1 22. A method for providing Internet addresses corresponding to an  
2 electronic signal to a user, the method comprising:

3 receiving at least one electronic signal, wherein the electronic signal  
4 includes one or more Internet addresses embedded therein;

5 extracting the one or more Internet addresses from the at least one  
6 electronic signal;

7 compiling and storing a historical list of the one or more Internet  
8 addresses extracted from the at least one electronic signal; and

9 presenting the historical list of the one or more Internet addresses to  
10 the user.

1 23. The method of claim 22, further comprising receiving a signal  
2 from the user indicating a selected Internet address from the historical list and  
3 providing a connection to a web page associated with the selected Internet address.

1 24. The method of claim 22, further comprising displaying the at least  
2 one electronic signal to the user.

1                   25. The method of claim 22, wherein receiving the at least one  
2 electronic signal includes receiving a plurality of electronic signals.

1                   26. The method of claim 25, further comprising tuning to a selected  
2 one of the plurality of electronic signals.

1                   27. The method of claim 25, wherein presenting the historical list  
2 includes presenting Internet addresses extracted from the plurality of electronic  
3 signals.

1                   28. The method of claim 22, wherein presenting the historical list to  
2 the user includes presenting Internet addresses extracted over an amount of time  
3 selectable by the user.

1                   29. The method of claim 22, wherein presenting the historical list to  
2 the user includes presenting Internet addresses of a number selectable by the user.

1                   30. The method of claim 22, wherein presenting the historical list to  
2 the user includes presenting program source information associated with each Internet  
3 address.

1                   31. The method of claim 22, wherein receiving the at least one  
2 electronic signal includes receiving a video signal.

1                   32. The method of claim 22, wherein receiving the at least one  
2 electronic signal includes receiving an audio signal.

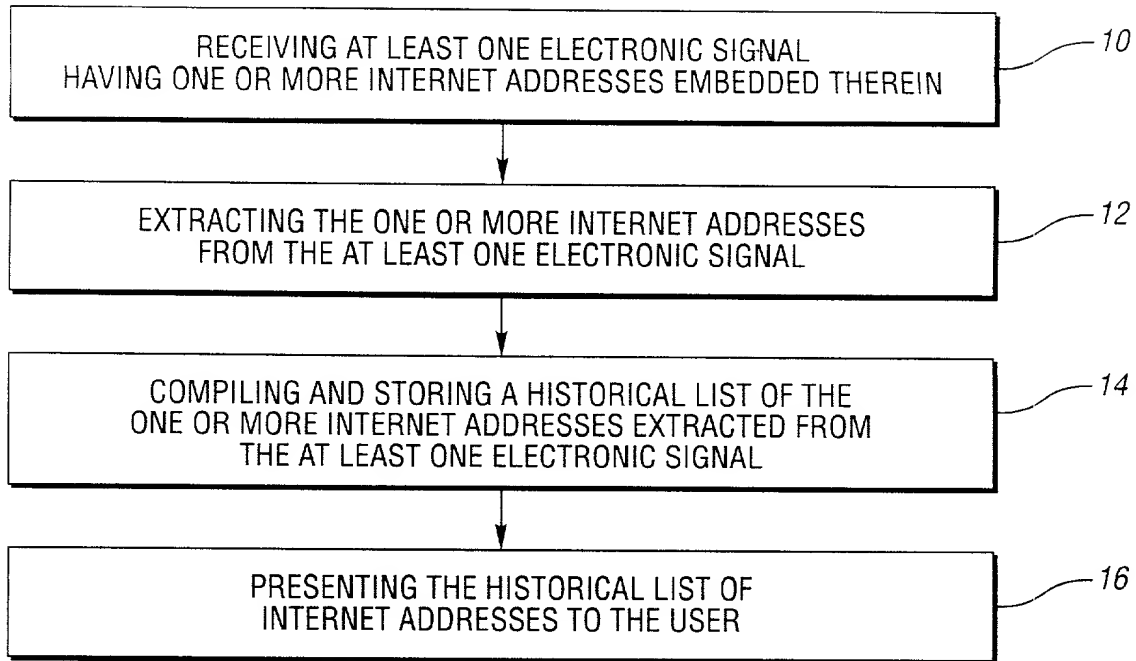
1                   33. The method of claim 22, wherein receiving the at least one  
2 electronic signal includes receiving a combined video and audio signal.

1                   34. The method of claim 22, wherein extracting the one or more  
2 Internet addresses includes extracting uniform resource locators (URLs).

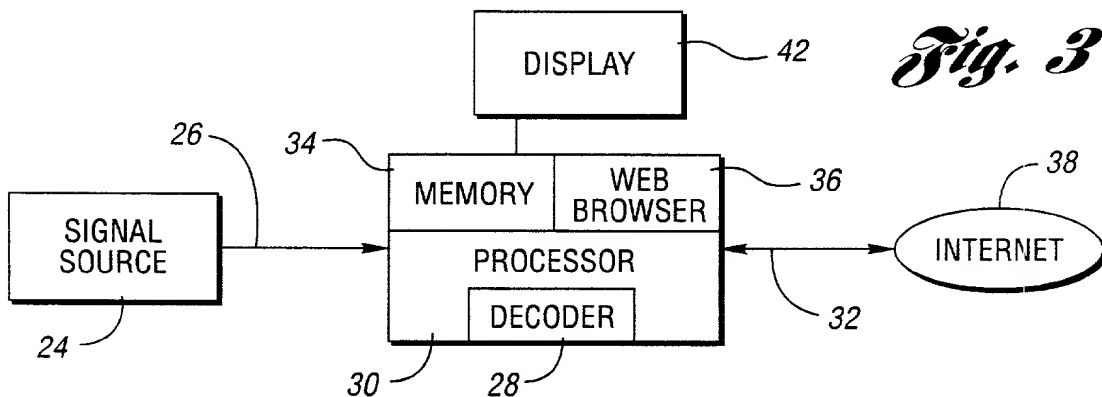
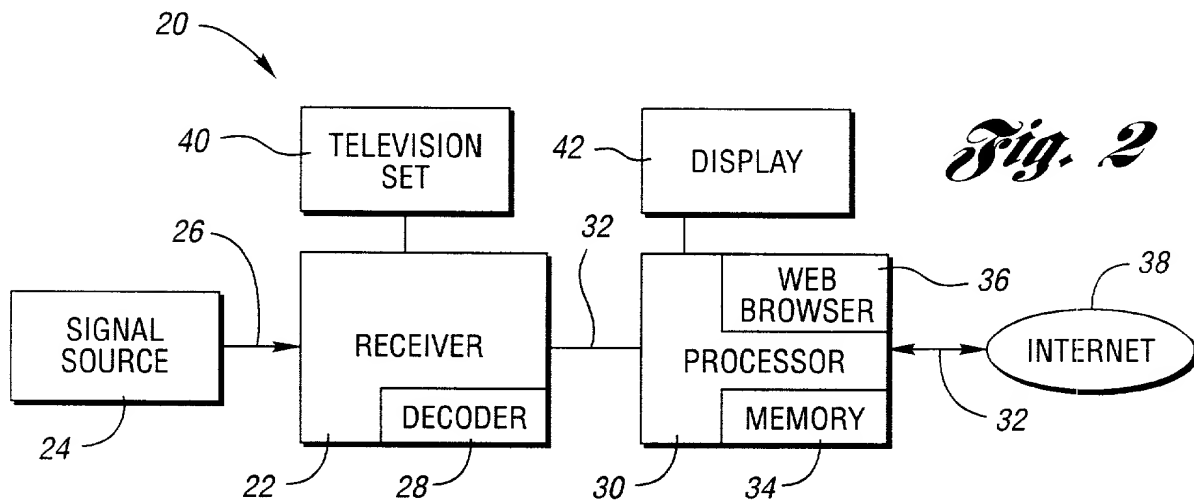
1                   35. The method of claim 22, wherein extracting the one or more  
2 Internet addresses includes extracting the Internet addresses from a vertical blanking  
3 interval of the at least one electronic signal.

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A system and method are provided for providing Internet addresses corresponding to an electronic signal, such as a video or audio program, to a user. The system includes a receiver for receiving at least one electronic signal, where the  
5 electronic signal includes one or more Internet addresses embedded therein. A decoder in communication with the receiver is operable to extract the one or more Internet addresses from the electronic signal. The system further includes a processor in communication with the decoder. The processor compiles a historical list of the one or more Internet addresses extracted from the electronic signal, and  
10 includes memory for storing the historical list. A web browser connected to the processor is operable to present the historical list of Internet addresses to the user.



*Fig. 1*



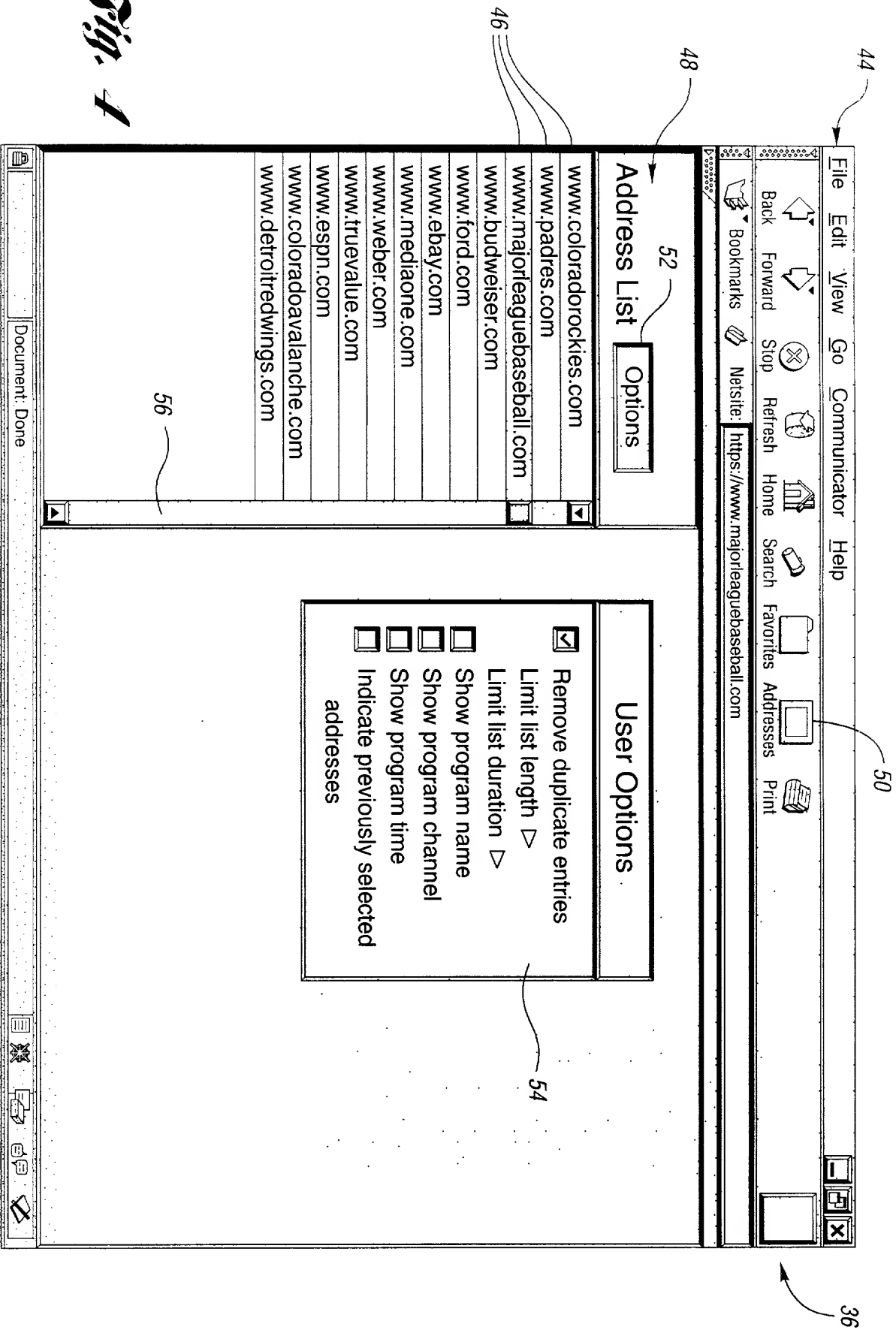


Fig. 1

# DECLARATION FOR PATENT APPLICATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

Atty. Docket No. MEDO 5029 PUS  
First Named Inventor Monica A. Marics et al.

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that my residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

## SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PROVIDING INTERNET ADDRESSES CORRESPONDING TO AN ELECTRONIC SIGNAL TO A USER ,

the specification of which:

☒ is attached hereto; or  
☐ was filed on (MM/DD/YYYY) \_\_\_\_\_ as U.S. Application Number or PCT International Application Number \_\_\_\_\_, and was amended on (MM/DD/YYYY) \_\_\_\_ (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment specifically referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, § 119(a)-(d) or § 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or § 365(a) of any PCT international application which designated at least one country other than the United States of America, listed below, and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or of any PCT international application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

<i>Prior Foreign Application Number(s)</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Foreign Priority Date (MM/DD/YYYY)</i>	<i>Priority Not Claimed</i>	<i>Certified Copy Attached? (Yes/No)</i>
<i>n/a</i>				

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, § 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

<i>Application Number(s)</i>	<i>Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)</i>
<i>n/a</i>	

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, § 120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code § 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56 which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application.

<i>Application Number(s)</i>	<i>Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)</i>	<i>Status: Patented, Pending, Abandoned</i>
<i>n/a</i>		

**Declaration for Patent Application (cont'd.)**Atty. Docket No. MEDO 5029 PUS

I hereby appoint the following registered practitioners to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith:

Ernie L. Brooks, Reg. No. 26,260; James A. Kushman, Reg. No. 25,634; David R. Syrowik, Reg. No. 27,956; Mark A. Cantor, Reg. No. 30,614; Ralph M. Burton, Reg. No. 17,748; Robert C. J. Tuttle, Reg. No. 27,962; Earl J. LaFontaine, Reg. No. 30,766; Ronald M. Nabozny, Reg. No. 28,648; Thomas A. Lewry, Reg. No. 30,770; John E. Nemazi, Reg. No. 30,876; Kevin J. Heinl, Reg. No. 29,805; William G. Abbott, Reg. No. 31,936; Donald J. Harrington, Reg. No. 17,427; Paul M. Schwartz, Reg. No. 33,278; Timothy G. Newman, Reg. No. 34,228; Frederick M. Ritchie, Reg. No. 18,669; Robert C. Brandenburg, Reg. No. 29,048; A. Frank Duke, Reg. No. 20,937; John M. Halan, Reg. No. 35,534; Jeffrey M. Szuma, Reg. No. 35,700; James R. Ignatowski, Reg. No. 26,741; Frank A. Angileri, Reg. No. 36,733; William G. Conger, Reg. No. 31,209; Sangeeta G. Shah, Reg. No. 38,614; Christopher W. Quinn, Reg. No. 38,274; Robert C. Jones, Reg. No. 35,209; David S. Bir, Reg. No. 38,383; Konstantine J. Diamond, Reg. No. 39,657; James N. Kallis, Reg. No. 41,102; Hugo A. Delevie, Reg. No. 32,688; Ralph E. Smith, Reg. No. 35,474; Michael S. Brodbine, Reg. No. 38,392; Jeremy J. Curcuri, Reg. No. 42,454; Mark D. Chuey, Reg. No. 42,415; and John J. Ignatowski, Reg. No. 36,555; Pete N. Kioussis, Reg. No. 41,117; Gigette M. Bejin, Reg. No. 44,027; Stephanie M. Mansfield, Reg. No. 43,773; Mark E. Stuenkel, Reg. No. 44,364; Matthew R. Mowers, Reg. No. P-44,956.

Address all correspondence and telephone calls to Stephanie M. Mansfield  
at Brooks & Kushman P.C., 1000 Town Center, Twenty-Second Floor, Southfield, Michigan 48075, (248) 358-4400.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

**Full Name of Sole or First Inventor** Monica A. Marics

Inventor's signature Monica A. Marics Date June 2, 2000

Post Office Address SAME AS RESIDENCE

Residence 916 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Boulder, Colorado 80302 Citizenship U.S.A.

**Full Name of Second Joint Inventor** J. Clarke Stevens

Inventor's signature J. Clarke Stevens Date June 2, 2000

Post Office Address SAME AS RESIDENCE

Residence 1314 Iris Circle, Broomfield, Colorado 80020 Citizenship U.S.A.

**Full Name of Third Joint Inventor** Patricia Somers

Inventor's signature Patricia Somers Date June 2, 2000

Post Office Address SAME AS RESIDENCE

Residence 145 Pine Needle Road, Boulder, Colorado 80304 Citizenship U.S.A.

**Full Name of Fourth Joint Inventor** Anne P. McClard

Inventor's signature Anne P. McClard Date June 2, 2000

Post Office Address SAME AS RESIDENCE

Residence 1264 Lambert Circle, Lafayette, Colorado 80026 Citizenship U.S.A.